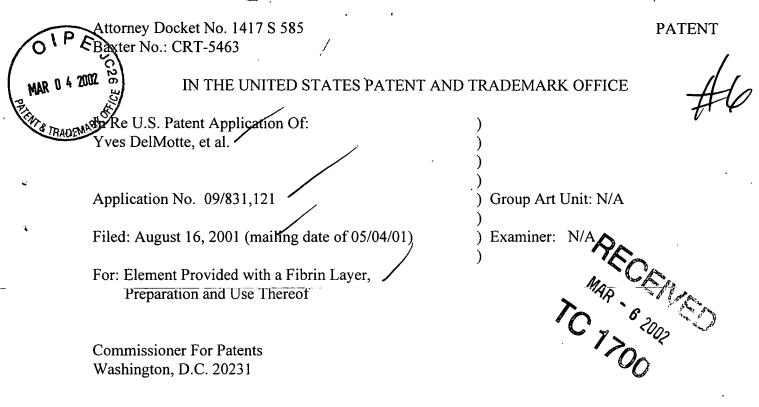
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TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449, "Information Disclosure Citation," and a copy of each reference listed therein.

Since this Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Official Action on the merits, no fee is necessary.

Applicants are submitting this art because they recognize their duty to disclose pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56. However, submission of this art and Statement is not an admission any item identified contains matter anticipating the invention or rendering the invention obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Further, Applicants believes none of the art submitted herewith, alone or in proper combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the invention claimed by Applicants.

The citation of a reference is also without admission the reference is sufficient to teach one of ordinary skill in the art how to make or use the subject matter thereof or the reference is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Moreover, submission of these patents is without admission any of the patents constitutes statutory prior art or has an effective date prior to Applicants' effective date of invention.

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Please charge any additional fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

 $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{v}$

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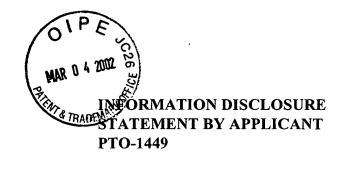
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 22, 2002.

Carol J. Wiecher 14/374.



File No.: CRT-5463; 1417S P583 Application No.: 09/831,121 Applicants: Delmotte et al. 7 Filing Date: August 16, 2001 Mailing Date: May 4, 2001 Art Unit: Not yet assigned

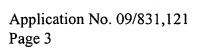
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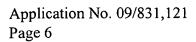
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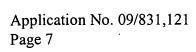
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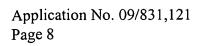
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